



Photo by Dennis Tachibana

Eugene's conference center gets off with a smash Wednesday as officials break ground on the project.

## Center near finish, director is hired

City officials kicked off the third and final phase of a \$40-million civic center construction project Wednesday that merchants hope will revitalize Eugene's downtown.

A ground-breaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction of the Eugene Convention Center, located on Sixth Avenue between Wilamette and Oak Streets. Construction already is under way there on the performing arts center and 12-story Hilton Hotel.

The 35,000-square-foot convention center will be located just south of the hotel and is expected to be completed in September, 1982, when the Hilton and performing arts center will open.

The conference center will provide space for conventions, meetings and some retail businesses. Construction is being

financed by the city and the Eugene Renewal Agency.

Also this week, a well-known rock and jazz stage manager was hired as operations director for the performing arts center and conference center.

David Pelletier, former tour manager for the Rolling Stones, The Who and Keith Jarrett, will head a 20-member staff to operate the two city facilities.

Pelletier, 32, currently is the operations manager at the Berklee Performance Center in Boston.

Pelletier was picked from 167 applicants for the position and will begin in August at an annual salary of \$26,364.

Pelletier has a degree in business administration from Fisher College in Boston, and has extensive experience in performance management, audio engineering and lighting systems.

## Guatemalan will discuss human rights

Francisco Larue, Guatemalan trade-union lawyer and member of the Peace and Justice Committee, will speak May 26 on "Repression and Resistance in Guatemala."

The talk will be given in Room 123 Science I at 7:30 p.m.

Larue will discuss his experiences in Guatemala. His talk will focus on human rights violations and the efforts of Guatemalans to overcome the repressive forces of the military government.

The Council on Hemispheric Affairs estimates that over 6,000 Guatemalans have been assassinated by the Lucas Garcia regime since it took power in mid-1978. The government has been accused by a number of national and international research and human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, of sponsoring a terror program of assassinations, secret detentions and summary executions.

Larue represents the Democratic Front Against Oppression, a coalition of more than 160 organizations formed in February, 1979, to confront government repression.

The event is sponsored by the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America, with the co-sponsorship of Clergy and Laity Concerned, the Eugene chapter of the National Lawyer's Guild and the University Latin American Studies Committee.



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